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The Energy and Technology Committee

Testimony in regard to Bill 5002 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL.

Honored committee members,

I am writing to ask this committee to reject the proposal to provide more funding for renewable energy and green technologies.

Technology cannot be legislated. Technological advances are not created through taxes.

Existing funding is in place for continued research and development, however solar and wind are not yet viable, cost effective alternatives. A recent World Energy Outlook report states that the percentage of total global primary energy demand provided by wind and solar is 1.1%. The WEO report also states that solar generation is at least twice as expensive as coal and almost twice as expensive as gas. Most significantly, due to the variability of solar and wind, systems that use these alternatives must fall back on fossil fuels and make the overall grid less efficient and cause increases in emissions. The storage of energy created through these media is still very limited and adds to the inefficiency.

When the technology advances to viability the market will adjust naturally. It is unrealistic to replace or phase out existing reliable technology until a superior, or at least equal, technology is available and cost effective.

The New Green Deal proposals are wish lists, not development plans.

Government subsidy does not tend to increase efficiency of development or improve the timetable. Connecticut cannot afford to push this agenda, either in monetary costs or by creating additional expenses for existing and potential industries.

Regards,
Mark Conrad